

## Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /089 W  
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O R 280926Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5345

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: ROLE OF ZULUS IN SOWETO INCIDENTS

REFS: JOHANNESBURG 1460 AND 1465

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ZULU CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI ADDRESSED ABOUT 6000 HOSTEL DWELLERS IN MZIMHLOPE TOWNSHIP LATE YESTERDAY, CALLING ON THEM TO UNITE AND FACE OPPRESSION AS ONE AGAINST THE OLD TACTICS OF DIVIDE AND RULE. RAND DAILY MAIL AUGUST 28 QUOTED BUTHELEZI AS SAYING "WE ARE PASSING THROUGH AN HOUR OF TRIAL. WE SHOULD UNITE AS BLACKS AND FACE OPPRESSION AS ONE. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR US TO BE SLINGING MUD AT EACH OTHER."

2. BUTHELEZI CONTINUED "I HAVE COME HERE NOT TO PASS JUDGMENT. I HAVE COME HERE TO PLEAD WITH THE RESIDENTS OF SOWETO TO FORGIVE WHAT HAS HAPPENED. I KNOW THIS IS A DIFFICULT THING TO ASK. I KNOW THE WOUNDS ARE STILL BLEEDING...THAT THE DEEP HURT OF THE PAST FEW DAYS IS STILL TOO FRESH TO MAKE WHAT I AM SAYING SENSIBLE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUSTAINED FAMILY LOSSES AND  
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INJURIES. WE AS AFRICANS ARE ALL SUFFERING UNDER OPPRESSIVE

RULE IN THIS COUNTRY. WE NEED TO BE UNITED IN OUR EFFORTS TOWARD THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR LIBERATION. I FIND IT PERTURBING THAT BLACK BROTHERS SHOULD BE AT EACH OTHERS' THROATS. THE TURNING OF BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER IS THE MOST TRAGIC ASPECT OF OUR CURRENT EXPLOSIVE SITUATION. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ZULUS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RAMPAGING, PLUNDER AND DEATHS THAT HAVE OCCURRED. THE BLACK PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA HAVE KNOWN ME FOR SOME TIME AND I HAVE, DURING MY WHOLE CAREER, STRESSED THE BROTHERHOOD OF ALL BLACK MEN. THE WHOLE IDEA OF PRESENTING THE CURRENT TRAGIC SITUATION IS TRIBALLY ORIENTED IS A GROSS IRRESPONSIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE MASS MEDIA."

END UNCLASSIFIED

3. THERE IS A GROWING, ALTHOUGH NOT CONCLUSIVE, BODY OF EVIDENCE, THAT MARAUDING BANDS FROM HOSTELS MAY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES AS A MEANS OF COUNTERING THE WORK BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN SPEARHEADED BY YOUNG BLACKS. EARLY IN THE BOYCOTT EFFORT SAG STATEMENTS URGED BLACKS TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN DEALING WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DISRUPT LAW AND ORDER IN BLACK AREAS. A NUMBER OF EYEWITNESSES HAVE DESCRIBED HOW POLICE AND POLICE VEHICLES ACCOMPANIED THE ROAMING IMPIS (COMPOSED FOR THE MOST PART OF ZULUS), WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO STOP THEM. BUTHELEZI'S REMARKS ARE BEING INTERPRETED AS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT ZULUS HAD BEEN INDUCED TO ACT AS BOYCOTT BREAKERS, AND AS HIS APOLOGY FOR THE DAMAGES WROUGHT BY THE IMPIS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT BUTHELEZI HAD ANY ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF POTENTIAL ZULU PARTICIPATION. AN SABC TELEVISION COMMENTATOR OFFERED AS EXPLANATION OF THE ENTRY OF HOMES THE EXCUSE THAT THE IMPIS WERE CHASING TSOTSI BANDS WHO DISPERSED AND HID IN HOUSES.

BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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